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Requests to View JFK X-rays Still Rejected by Archives

Associated Press

The National Archives reports it has received and rejected 15 requests from people hoping to see its X-rays and photographs of the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy.

The Kennedy family turned the material over to the Archives Nov. 1, 1966 with such heavy restrictions on its public availability that it may not be widely seen for many years.

Dr. James B. Rhoads, deputy archivist, said the 15 requests came mostly from people who already have done fairly extensive research on the assassination."

"We've explained to all of them that we just can't show it yet," Rhoads said in an interview.

The Kennedy family gave 14 X-rays, 25 black and white negatives and 26 color transparencies to the Archives for safekeeping. For what Rhoads described as "personal reasons," the family placed the following restrictions on them:

- During the first five years, no one but Government investigation units and individuals with the consent of the Kennedy family could see them.
- Thereafter, for the duration of the lifetimes of Kennedy's parents, brothers and sisters, widow and two children, only recognized experts in pathology and related fields should have access.

The Archives said there has been "very active interest" on other material concerning the assassination.

"We've had about 450 inquiries in two years," Rhoads said, "particularly about the Zapruder film."

The movie film was taken by businessman Abraham Zapruder in Dallas, just as President Kennedy was shot to death while riding in a motorcade Nov. 22, 1963.

The film was used by the Warren Commission in its investigation of the assassination.